AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister is likely to take up with Mr. George Bush, President of U.S. during his proposed visit to France, the question of clubbing India with Japan and Brazil as indulging in unfair trade practices in American exports, which is adverse to the interest of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) This matter did not come up for discussion during Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush during his recent visit to France.

(b) Does not arise.

Issuance of Visas to Directors of South African De Beers

193. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visas have been issued to J.A. Barbour; E.M. Charles and EGJ Dawe—all directors of South African De Beers for their proposed visit to Bombay in October; 1989, despite their South African connections;

(b) whether visas were earlier refused to many British cricketers on the ground of their South African connections; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what were the special reasons for issuing visas to these three directors of the South African De Beers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of a Yatri Niwas near Howrah railway station

194. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to set up a Yatri Niwas near Howrah station; and

(b) if so, what is the progress of implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail Yatri Niwas will soon be ready to be opened to public shortly.

Understanding Reached between Sri Lanka Government and LTTE

195. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lankan Government and LTTE have since reached a definite understanding on resolving the ethnic problem, which is outside the scope of the India-Sri Lanka agreement of July 29, 1987;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the undertaking; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Government of India is not aware of any 'understanding' on resolving the ethnic problem, reached between the Sri-Lankan Government and the LTTE.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.